King Charls HIS SPEECH

Made upon the

SCAFFOLD

at *Whitehall* Gate,

Immediately before his Execution,

On Tuesday the 30 of *Jan.* 1648.

With a Relation of the maner of his going to Execution.

Published by speciall Authority.

LONDON,

Printed by a Stationer, for the good of the Common-Wealth. 1649.

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Made upon the Scaffold at *Whitehall*-Gate, immediately before his Execution.

Tuesday, January 30.

ABout tenne in the Morning the King was brought from St. *James's*, walking on foot through the Park, with a Regiment of Foot, part before and part behind him, with Colours flying, Drums beating, his private Guard of Partizans, with some of his Gentlemen before and some behinde bareheaded; Doctor *Juxon* next behinde him, and Col. *Thomlinson* (who had the charge of him) talking with the King bareheaded from the Park, up the stairs into the Gallery, and so into the

† Cabinet-Chamber, where he used to lie, where he continued at his Devotion, refusing to dine (having before taken the Sacrament) onely about an houre before he came forth, he drank a glasse of Claret wine, and eat a piece of bread about twelve at noone.

† *It is observ'd, The King desired to have the use of the Cabinet, and the little room next it, where there was a Trap-doore.*

From thence he was accompanied by Dr *Juxon*, Col. *Thomlinson*, and other Officers, formerly appointed to attend him, and the private Guard of Partizans, with Musketiers on each side, through the Banquetting house adjoyning, to which the † Scaffold was erected, between Whitehall Gate, and the Gate leading into the Gallery from St. *James's*: The Scaffold was hung round with black, and the floor covered with black, and the Ax and the Block laid in the middle of the Scaffold. There were divers Companies of Foot, and Troops of Horse placed on the one side of the Scaffold towards King-street, and on the other side towards Charing Crosse, and the multitudes of people that came to be Spectators, very great.

† *It was near (if not in) the very place where the first blood in the beginning of the late troubles was shed, when the King's Cavaliers fell upon the Citizens, killed one, and wounded about 50 others.*

The King being come upon the Scaffold, look'd very earnestly on the Block, and asked Col. *Hacker* if there were no higher; and then spake thus (directing his Speech chiefly to Col. *Thomlinson*:)

King.

I Shall bee very little heard of any body here, I shall therefore speak a word unto you here; indeed I could hold my peace very well, if I did not think that holding my peace, would make some men think that I did submit to the guilt, as well as to the punishment, but I think it is my duty to God first, and to my Country, for to clear my selfe both as an honest man, and a good King and a good Christian. I shall begin first with my Innocency, in truth I think it not very needfull for me to insist long upon this, for all the World knowes I never did begin a war with the two Houses of Parliament, and I call God to witnesse, to whom I must shortly make an account, that I never did intend for to incroach upon their Priviledges,

they began upon me, it is the Militia, they began upon, they confest that the Militia was mine, but they thought it fit to have it from me: and to be short, if any body will look to the dates of Commissions, of their Commissions and mine, and likewise to the Declarations, will see clearely that they began these unhappy trouble, not I; so that as the guilt of these enormous crimes that are laid against me, I hope in God that God will clear me of it, I will not, I am in charity; God forbid that I should lay it upon the two Houses of Parliament, there is no necessity of either, I hope they are free of this guilt; for I do believe that ill instruments between them and me, has been the chiefe cause of all this bloodshed; so that by way of speaking, as I finde my self cleare of this, I hope (and pray God) that they may too: yet for all this, God forbid that I should be so ill a Christian, as not to say Gods judgements are just upon me: Many times he does pay Justice by an unjust Sentence that is ordinary; I will only say this, That an unjust Sentence† that I suffered for to take effect, is punished now, by an unjust Sentence upon me; that is, so far I have said, to shew you that I am an innocent man.

† Strafford.

Now for to shew you that I am a good Christian; I hope there is† a good man that will beare me witnesse, that I have forgiven all the world, and even those in particular that have been the chief causers of my death; who they are, God knowes, I do not desire to know, I pray God forgive them. But this is not all, my Charity must go farther, I wish that they may repent, for indeed they have committed a great sin in that particular; I pray God with St. Stephen, That this be not laid to their charge; nay not onely so, but that they may take the right way to the Peace of the Kingdom for my Charity commands me not onely to forgive particular men, but my Charity commands me to endeavor to the last gasp the Peace of the kingdome: So (Sirs) I do wish with all my soul, and I doe hope (there is† some here that will carry it further) that they may endeavor the Peace of the Kingdom. Now (Sirs) I must shew you both how you are out of the way, and will put you in a way; first, you are

† Pointing to Dr. Iuxon.

† Turning to some Gentlemen that wrote.

out

out of the way, for certainly all the way you ever had yet as I could finde by any thing, is in the way of Conqueſt, certainly this is an ill way; for Conqueſt (Sir) in my opinion is never juſt, except there be a juſt Cauſe, either for matter of wrong or juſt Title, and then if you go beyond it, the firſt quarrell that you have to it, that makes it unjuſt at the end, that was juſt at firſt: But if it be only matter of Conqueſt, then it is a great robbery; as a Pirat ſaid to Alexander, *that He was a great Robber, hee was but a petty Robber; and ſo, Sir, I do think the way that you are in, is much out of the way. Now Sir, or to put you in the way, believe it you will never do right, nor God will never proſper you, untill you give God his due, the King his due (that is, my ſucceſſors) and the People their due; I am as much for them as any of you: You muſt give God his due, by regulating rightly his Church (according to his Scripture which is now out of order; For to ſet you in a way particularly now I cannot, but only this, A National Synod freely called, freely debating among themſelves, muſt ſettle this, when that every Opinion is freely and clearly heard.*

For the King, indeed I will not, (then turning to a Gentleman that touched the Ax, ſaid, hurt not the Ax that may hurt me *. For the King: The Lawes of the Land will clearly inſtruct you for that; therefore, becauſe it concerns My Own particular, I onely give you a touch of it.

* Meaning if he did blunt the edge.

For the people. And truly I deſire their Liberty and Freedom, as much as any Body whomſoever; but I muſt tell you, That their Liberty and their Freedom, conſiſts in having of Government; thoſe Lawes, by which their Life and their Goods, may be moſt their own. It is not for having ſhare in Government (Sir) that is nothing pertaining to them. A Subject and a Soveraign, are cleane different things and therefore, untill they do that, I mean, That you do put the people in that Liberty as I ſay, certainly they will never enjoy themſelves.

Sirs, It was for this, that I now I Am come here: If I would have given way to an Arbitrary way, for to have

all Lawes changed according to the power of the Sword, I needed not to have come here; and therefore, I tell you, (and I pray God it be not laid to your charge) That I am a Martyr of the People.

Introth Sirs, I shall not hold you much longer; for I will onely say this to you, That in truth, I could have desired some little time longer, because that I would have put this that I have said in a little more order, and a little better digested, then I have done; and therefore I hope you will excuse Me.

I have delivered my Conscience, I pray God, that you do take those courses that are best for the good of the Kingdom, and your own Salvations.

Doctor *Iuxon.*

Will Your Majesty (though it may be very well known Your Majesties Affections to Religion, yet it may be expected, that You should) say somewhat for the Worlds satisfaction.

King.

I thank you very heartily (my Lord) for that, I had almost forgotten it. Introth Sirs, My Conscience in Religion, I think, is very well known to all the World; and therefore, I declare before you all, That I die a Christian according to the Profession of the Church of *England*, as I found it left Me by My Father; and this honest man † I think will witnesse it. Then turning to the Officers said, Sirs, excuse me for this same. I have a good Cause, and I have a gracious God; I will say no more. Then turning to Colonel *Hacker*, he said, Take care that they

† Pointing to Dr. *Iuxon.*

they do not put Me to pain, and Sir this, and it pleaſe you: But then a Gentlemen coming neer the Ax, the King ſaid, Take heed of the Ax, pray take heed of the Ax. Then the King ſpeaking to the Executioner, ſaid, I ſhall ſay but very ſhort Prayers, and when I thurſt out My hands.—— Then the King called to Doctor *Iuxon* for His Night-Cap, and having put it on, He ſaid to the Executioner, Does My Hair trouble you? Who deſired Him to put it all under His Cap, which the King did accordingly, by the help of the Executioner and the Biſhop: then the King turning to Doctor *Iuxon* ſaid, I have a good Cauſe, and a gracious God on my ſide.

Doctor *Iuxon*.

There is but one Stage more. This Stage is turbulent and troubleſome; it is a ſhort one: But You may conſider it will ſoon carry You a very great way; it wil carry You from Earth to Heaven; and there You ſhall finde a great deale of Cordial, Joy, and Comfort.

King.

I go from a corruptible, to an incorruptible Crown; where no diſturbance can be; no diſturbance in the World.

Doctor *Iuxon*.

You are exchanged from a Temporal to an eternall Crown; a good exchange.

The King then ſaid to the Executioner; is My Hair well: Then the King took off His Cloak and

and His George; giving His George to Doctor *Iuxon* saying, Remember * —— Then the King put off His Dublet, and being in His Waſte-coat, put His Cloak on again, then looking upon the block, ſaid to the Executioner You muſt ſet it faſt.

* It is thought for to give it to the Prince.

Executioner. It is faſt Sir.

King. It might have been a little higher.

Executioner. It can be no higher Sir.

King. When I put out my hands this way, * then —.

* Stretching them out.

After that having ſaid two or three words (as he ſtood) to Himſelf with hands and eyes lift up; Immediately ſtooping down, laid His Neck upon the Block: And then the Executioner againe putting his Hair under his Cap, the *King* ſaid, * Stay for the ſigne.

* Thinking he had been going to ſtrike.

Executioner. Yes, I will and it pleaſe Your Majeſty.

And after a very little pawſe, the King ſtretching forth his hands. The *Executioner* at one blow, ſevered his head from his Body.

That when the Kings head was cut off, the *Executioner* held it up, and ſhewed it to the Spectators.

And his Body was put in a Coffin, covered with black Velvet, for that purpoſe.

The Kings Body now lies in His Lodging Chamber in Whitehall.

Sic tranſit gloria mundi.

FINIS.